

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A ball-stud joint composed of a major body having a threaded bore adapted to connect the major body to a first counterpart, and a ball stud connected to the major body, and a dust cover installed to prevent entry of dust where the major body is connected to the ball stud, wherein the ball stud is comprised of a ball fit for pivoting movement into a ball socket recessed in the major body, a stud having an end made integrally with the ball and another ~~plain-end~~ adapted to fit into a second counterpart to be subjected to a riveting operation to joint the stud with anythe second counterpart, and a flange formed integrally around the stud to provide a surface coming into abutment against the second counterpart, and wherein the flange has a ~~sloping side extending radially outwardly from a flat surface facing on~~ toward the ball and a sloping side extending radially outwardly from the flat surface to an outside periphery of the flange in such a way that the sloping side ~~comescan come~~ into engagement with a slantwise bearing area on a lower die jig while the dust cover remains installed during a riveting operation performed on the other ~~when the plain-end of the stud is formed into rivet head.~~

2. (Original) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 1, wherein the sloping side is made in  $S \geq 1.0$  mm and  $25^\circ$

$\leq \theta \leq 50^\circ$ , in which S denotes a widthwise distance of the flange ranging from the flat surface to a level where the sloping side meets the outside periphery of the flange, and  $\theta$  denotes an angle included between the flat surface and the sloping side of the flange.

3. (Original) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 1, wherein when the angle  $\theta$  included between the flat surface and the sloping side is at  $45^\circ$ , the widthwise distance S of the flange ranging from the flat surface to the level where the sloping side meets the outside periphery of the flange is determined to  $1.0 \text{ mm} \leq S \leq 2.0 \text{ mm}$ .

4. (Original) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 3, wherein the widthwise distance S is preferably in a range of  $1.2 \text{ mm} \leq S \leq 1.5 \text{ mm}$ .

5. (Currently amended) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 1, wherein the major body is made of steel and ~~has a threaded bore to connect the major body to another counterpart.~~

6. (Original) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 1, wherein a retainer ring to keep the ball stud in connection with the major body is installed between an opening of the ball socket in the major body and an outside surface of the ball in a way held at the opening in the major body.

7. (Currently amended) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 1, wherein the ball stud has a retainer made integrally on the stud between the flange and the ball, providing an annular groove between the retainer and the end

Appln. No. 10/782,888  
Amd. dated December 23, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2005

surface of the flange to fit over an mouth of the  
dust proof cover.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 1, wherein the flange on the ball stud is made in such configuration that is circular in cross section and raised on the top thereof into a frustum of a right circular cone to provide the sloping side.

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A ball-stud joint constructed as defined in claim 1, wherein the stud further has an annular groove that is bounded by the flat surface and into which a mouth of the dust proof cover is fitted.